The presence of pesticides in the imported wheat has been found to be within permissible limits.

Compensation to farmers of Punjab

3690. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state how the Government propose to compensate the farmers of Punjab who have sold wheat to Government or private agencies before Government's delayed announcement to pay bonus on wheat over and above the minimum support price of Rs. 650/- per quintal?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): The incentive bonus of Rs. 50 per quintal for wheat over Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of Rs. 650 per quintal announced on 22nd April, 2006 is applicable from the start of the Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2006-07 i.e. from 20th March, 2006 and upto 30th June, 2006 for the wheat procured by FCI & State Agencies.

Onions as essential Commodities

3691. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to re-consider the matter to declare onions as an essential commodity under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and also to concur to promulgate a control order to check the prices and availability of stocks on onions;

(b) whether Government have taken any action in this regards;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government would consider the feasibility to import onions from China and allot it to the Andhra Pradesh at Visakhapatnam Port delivery for release to the consumers at the subsidized rate of Rs. 7/- per kg; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir.